

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WINNIP 00067 232002Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 INT-05
OES-06 /080 W
-----240241 016336/73

R 231530Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 0067

E.O. 11652: N/Z
TAGS: PFOR, SENV, OVIP, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. UNDER THREE-COLUMN HEADLINES STRESSING TRUDEAU'S PLEDGE FOR CANADIAN UNITY, WINNIPEG'S DAILIES OBVIOUSLY GAVE TOP COVERAGE TO SPEECH BEFORE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS. IN ADDITION, LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS RAN AND RE-RAN PARTS OF THE PM'S SPEECH SEVERAL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY. ONE LOCAL TV COMMENTATOR SAYS IT MAY HAVE BEEN TRUDEAU'S BEST SPEECH EVER, AND THERE WAS AN OMNIPRESENT FEELING OF PRIDE IN THE WAY HE HANDLED HIMSELF IN WASHINGTON.

2. THE ONLY COMMENT SO FAR ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF THE VISIT WAS A WINNIPEG FREE PRESS EDITORIAL FEB 22 CALLING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S HALT OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE LONETREE DAM A 'COURAGEOUS DECISION'. WHILE THERE ARE VARIOUS CLAIMANTS IN CANADA TO THE VICTORY, THE FREE PRESS BELIEVES 'THE REAL CREDIT GOES TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHICH WILL NOW FACE HEAVY OPPOSITION FROM PRO-IRRIGATIONISTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN THE U.S.'. THE DECISION DOES NOT REMOVE THE ANXIETY OF CANADIANS, BUT IT DOES PROVIDE BREATHING SPACE. NOTING THAT THE PROJECT MAY BE MODIFIED RATHER THAN SCRAPPED ALTOGETHER, 'THE QUESTION THAT ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND OTHERS MUST BE ASKING IS WHAT GUARANTEE CAN THERE BE

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THAT SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE DIVERSION WOULD ELIMINATE THESE HAZARDS?' EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION 'CANNOT HELP BUT RAISE ITS POPULARITY IN THE EYES OF CANADIANS'.
HUTSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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